

DIAMOND

VI Volume XXX Number 6

Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa

January 22, 1987

Dordt's Ag Center Will Make Money in '87

by Galen Sinkey

The farm crisis has been a major issue facing Northwest Iowa during the past few years. Farmers have faced huge debts resulting from high seed, feed, and equipment prices, and low hog, cattle, and dairy product prices. At the same time the value of farmland dropped alarmingly, leaving farmers with high interest payments and damaging their ability to get credit.

The sagging agricultural economy hit Dordt College as well. Dordt's Agricultural Stewardship Center was shaken by many of the problems experienced by neighboring farmers. "We were hit hard, along with everyone else," said Bernie

De Wit, Vice President for Business at Dordt.

Now, for the first time in several years, the Ag Center has begun turning a profit and in 1987 will operate without subsidies from Dordt. "We're delighted with this," said De Wit. "We'll be able to pay off some of our operating debt and make some improvements."

Ag Center Manager, Mr. Ron Vos, emphasized that "the Center is more than an economic enterprise. Good or bad news financially doesn't concern me a great deal. Our calling is to be stewards of the earth... and to teach that to our students."

Vos went on to say that this profit has been due largely to higher hog

prices, improvements in record-keeping, and greater efficiency in running the Center. The swine facility is under a completely new record-keeping system. "We keep track of everything. That's the key right there," said Vos.

Two of the Center's buildings have been remodeled as well, incorporating new energy-efficient heat exchangers which save considerably on heating costs. These exchangers use the body heat of the animals in heating the buildings. Outside air is forced into the building through the exchanger, where it is heated by hot air flowing out. "Although we had heat exchangers before,"

Vos said, "Now we have a system that was designed and fine-tuned for us."

What does the future hold for Dordt's Agricultural Stewardship Center? According to De Wit, "If the hog and milk prices remain at their present level, we should be able to continue turning a profit." This profit will be used to pay off debts, and to make further educational improvements at the Center.

Vos hopes to see experimentation in embryo transplants for cattle and new metering devices for the dairy facility in the future. Said Vos, "We want to keep up with new agricultural technology, not just follow along."

Band Buses to Florida and Back

by Steve Mulder

"If you're looking to be wealthy and successful and to have a big career, there are many fine colleges that you have to choose from. But, if you are looking first of all to find a college where you can serve God and follow His will for your life, I believe there is no finer place for you than at Dordt College."

Band director Henry Duitman spoke these words at the last high school assembly of the Dordt band tour to Florida. He was speaking to the students at Westminster Christian Academy in St. Louis, but this message permeated the entire band tour.

Band tours are filled with many experiences. The band performed 12 times in ten days. They traveled thousands of miles, loading and unloading equipment at every stop, and setting up on stages that were only a

fraction larger than dorm rooms. The band performed for church audiences and high school assemblies from Pella, IA., to Ft. Lauderdale, FL., from Chattanooga, TN., to St. Louis, MO.

Band members found many ways to break the monotony of the traveling hours. Some participated in the traditional band tour Rook tournament. Others read, worked on puzzles, wrote postcards, snoozed, told jokes and stories, or took popular opinion polls.

The tour also allowed band members to enjoy the scenery, climate, and other special attractions in Florida. The band had two free hours to lie out on Ft. Lauderdale beaches. On Saturday band members could choose to spend the day either in Disney World or at Epcot Center.

On Sunday, January 18, the band played their tour music

for the last time in front of many college peers, professors and parents, at First Christian Reformed Church in Sioux Center.

The concert began with a resounding rendition of "America the Beautiful" by Samuel A. Ward. Concert favorites included "Scenes

from the Louvre" by Norman Dello Joio, and "An American in Paris" by George Gershwin. The audience had the opportunity to participate by singing along with several numbers from the new Christian Reformed Psalter Hymnal.



Photo by Michael Krommendyk

On Not Overemphasizing Grades

A few weeks ago every first-semester Dordt student received an ominous white envelope in the mail, with the Dordt College return address in the left hand corner. Most of you probably held the envelope in both hands, read your name a few times, then slowly slid the letter opener across the top. Then with a spurt of determination, you yanked out the computer printout and read the final results of an entire semester's work. There were, I'm sure, many reactions, from satisfied sighs of relief to screams of delight or growls of dismay.

It seems as though grades are becoming increasingly more important to the college and university students of this decade. There is a nationwide lack of activism, whereas a decade and a half ago there was more activism than most

people could handle. Professor Duane Plantinga, a former Dordt student, commented in an interview at the beginning of the year, that students seem to keep their noses in the books a lot more than when he was a student in the early 1970's. Why this turnabout?

Job assurance and money seem to be the major reasons. It is next to impossible to find a "satisfying" job with only a high school diploma, and it's becoming increasingly difficult in many fields to find a job with "just" a college diploma. Graduate schools tend to prefer people with high GPA's. So to get a top paying, satisfying job, top grades seem to be a major prerequisite.

Maybe we ought to be reevaluating what we're striving for. Is it to get the top grades to get into

the right graduate school to get the right job, or is there a genuine zeal for learning? I tend to think the former. Last semester, for example, a class on the history of South Africa and Apartheid, taught by a professor from South Africa, was offered as a choice for History 200. After the first test, a number of students dropped out in fear of receiving a bad grade. Those who stuck with the class may not have gotten A's or B's, but they learned in depth about an issue which stems from our Dutch heritage, and is a critical issue for our concern today.

Another example of the overemphasis placed on grades is the testing policy presented by the Academic Policies Committee at the last faculty meeting. The committee proposed the following items, among others: that no tests be

scheduled on Mondays, that students not be required to take more than two tests on one day, and that in each course at least three tests per semester be scheduled. What these points seem to imply is that students cram for tests. This is probably a major problem at any institution of learning. Ideally, students should be studying and reviewing continually so that a test reveals what the students have learned all along, not just on the night before the test.

So maybe a new semester is a time to make some studying resolutions, to emphasize learning, not the grade, as the major objective. Grades are important, but if that computer printout arriving in a Dordt College envelope only reveals what is now "out of the way" instead of knowledge gained, then no grade will matter in the long run.

Campus Footprints with

Jeff Burghgraef



by Jeff Burghgraef

Christmas vacation is a time in which some students lose themselves under the hypnotic influence of a football moving from one side of a TV screen to another. With names like Tangerine Bowl, Citrus Bowl, and Orange Bowl, one would think that in order to coin a new bowl name someone would have to invent a new kind of fruit. That's not the case; there still isn't a Lemon Bowl. Actually, if TV wanted to have a Super Bowl for all the fruit bowls they could call it the Punch Bowl.

It struck me as I was standing in line to pay my tuition, that some Dordt students are deeply involved in a game. This time instead of watching they are participating in what I call the Complaint Bowl. This bowl is played in Sioux Center. The arena is Dordt

College. The players are Dordt students.

Kickoff time at the Complaint Bowl is the start of a semester. The game begins with semester-tuition complaints. Standing in a tuition line, one can hear the players saying their complaints to one another.

The game of executing complaints continues throughout the semester. At halftime, students rally to execute their mid term-exam-complaints. Many of these complaints are executed at 3:00 a.m. by red-eyed players sitting by stacks of xeroxed notes.

Game play ends with final-exam-complaints. Players are often under the influence of caffeine when they execute these complaints.

Other plays in the Complaint Bowl include: the no-movie-theater-in-Sioux-Center-complaint, the no-student-chaplain-complaint, or the crappy-Diamond-complaint.

To qualify for the Complaint Bowl one need only be a passive Dordt student, a student who has adopted a "Who Cares?" attitude about Dordt College. One must also have experience in complaining about a situation without giving constructive criticism to help remedy the problem.

The Complaint Bowl has no winners. If this game remains at Dordt it will

have definite consequences for students and the college as a whole. If students do not voice their voice their constructive criticisms, ideas, and opinions on school issues, things will not improve. Divisions between the institution and its students will occur because college leaders will be forced to make decisions without student input. Our identity as a Christian institution will be lost

because we will be so busy wasting our energy on complaining about a problem instead of taking productive action to solve it.

The Complaint Bowl is not a valid game for Christians. If we are truly here to glorify God it's high time we voice our opinions in order to better our college. In other words, it's time Dordt students quit this foolish game and mature in their Christianity.

Two Schools of Coaching

by Chuck Muether

Generally speaking, there are two schools of collegiate coaching: the Reformed Biblical School and the Bobby Knight School. Of course not everyone would agree with this statement, but when you compare collegiate coaches, they will inevitably fall into one of two philosophies which these schools epitomize.

The Reformed Biblical School of Coaching teaches that coaches are servants to the players and not to themselves. Seeking to better the players' skills on and off the court, these coaches maintain a healthy atmosphere where competition is not a win-lose proposition, but a

performance that beckons the opposition to play well.

Moreover, such coaches are aware that serving the Kingdom of God is of utmost importance and that therefore the actions of their players must exemplify conduct prescribed by God.

The Bobby Knight School of Coaching, however, teaches that winning is fundamentally important. Coaches of this school are basically crowd-pleasers. What the coaches say and how they act are irrelevant as long as the team wins. These coaches are also self-proclaimed gods because they are infallible. If the team wins it is because of great coaching. If the team loses, it is because of the players' lack of effort or skill.

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January 22, 1987

'Quilters' Portrays Nineteenth Century

by Alicia Nugteren

Imagine life on the prairie at the turn of the century. "Quilters," the musical Dordt plans to perform on March 12-14, promises to make this lifestyle vivid. It combines a bit of history, some comedy, a touch of tragedy, and a lot of music to create the image.

"Quilters" director Dr. James Koldenhoven says that the content of the musical is realistic, although its style is "presentational." As the action begins, Sarah, aging mother of six grown women, announces, "This is my last quilt." It is a legacy quilt, and the

following 16 scenes, each represented by a quilt square, describe a part of the American pioneer experience.

The six women relate accounts of prairie fires, courtship, dugout living, and the problems of large families. At the close of the play, the quilt squares, assembled in one large quilt, are displayed.

"Quilters," written by Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek, was adapted from a book by Patricia Cooper and Norma Bradley Allen, *The Quilters; Women and Domestic Art*. Music and lyrics were composed by Barbara Damashek. "Quilters"

was nominated for six Tony awards in 1985. Koldenhoven noted that Dordt had planned to present "Quilters" last March, but copies of the play were not available and rights could not be obtained. He also indicated that two busloads of people from Sioux City have already purchased tickets for Dordt's Saturday performance.

Casting for "Quilters" was completed in December and rehearsals began on January 14. Cast members were chosen based on vocal and dancing ability and acting experience.

Koldenhoven will be assisted by senior theatre

arts major Letitia Collins. Lynn Otto is the choreographer, and Pam De Haan is music director. Music preparation involves voice training for cast members and orchestra rehearsals. The folk orchestra includes banjo, fiddle, cello, string bass, ukelele, flute, synthesizer, piano, and guitars.

Shirley Matheis will design costumes and John Hofland is involved in scene design, props, and lighting. Especially noteworthy are the members of a local quilting guild, who are sewing the quilt to be used in the production.

Changes in Testing Policy May Come

by Chuck Adams

Next year may bring major changes in Dordt's testing policy. After several months of study, the Academic Policies Committee recently brought proposed revisions to this policy before the faculty for study and discussion.

Revisions in the testing policy include making adjustments for students who have more than two major tests in one day, banning Monday tests, requiring professors to inform students of tests one week in advance, and adjusting the final exam schedule to allow more time between exams.

The Academic Policies Committee asked Student Forum to be involved in

presenting the proposal to the faculty. According to Student Forum President

Teresa Weidenaar, Student Forum has never been involved in this step of the decision-making process before.

After Student Forum discussed the new policies and measured student opinion on the issue, Weidenaar, along with Kevin Gesink and Beth Wissink, presented the

proposal at the January 9 faculty meeting. Weidenaar says the presentation was made without "coming on too strong," so that Student Forum will be able to continue working with the faculty in the future.

Weidenaar believes this opportunity for Student Forum to work with the faculty came about because of strong reactions to Forum's recent proposal dealing with prayer in the classroom. She calls cooperation between Student Forum and the faculty necessary, saying, "It is very important that the faculty get the chance to hear the students' opinions," instead of merely reading student evaluations at the end of each semester.

The testing proposals may be further edited before taking effect. Overall, Weidenaar says Student Forum found student opinion to be in favor of the proposed policies.



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Just War Theory Condemns the Contras

by Dave Van Heemst

While First Lady Nancy Reagan is working vigorously on an anti-drug campaign, Contra leader Alfonso Robelo is shipping drugs to the U.S. to raise money for the Contras.

At the same time in 1986, the International Year of Peace, President Reagan passed through Congress \$100 million in "humanitarian aid" to overthrow the "oppressive Marxist regime" in Nicaragua.

Are the Contras really "freedom fighters" and "the moral equals of our founding forefathers" as Reagan claims? Are they really preventing Communism from spreading through our backyard?

The Contra war against the Sandinistas began shortly after Reagan took office in 1981. Backed by the U.S., small numbers of disgruntled Nicaraguans began small scale guerilla warfare against the Sandinistas.

Over the following five years, funds poured into Nicaragua both overtly and covertly. Ex-Somocista guardsmen took the opportunity to lead the Contras in their struggle to regain power. Forty-six of 48 present-day Contra leaders are ex-Somocista National Guardsmen. The Contra force continued to grow so that today there may be as many as 20,000 Contras.

The Reagan administration gave four basic reasons for its commitment to the Contra movement. First, the Sandanistas have strong ties with the USSR. Second, they are exporting a revolution there would be little chance for more justice after the war than before. Not only would the war continue,

since almost every man in Nicaragua owns a gun and is sold on the revolution, but the Contras would certainly be oppressive. One needs only to look at their present human rights record. This leads us to third point.

According to Just War Theory, there must be immunity of non-combatants. It appears as if the policy of the Contras aims to terrorize citizens into overthrowing the government because of the terrible conditions.

Finally, the Contras must, according to Just War thinking, be a legitimate representation of society. With nearly all of the Contra leaders being ex-Somocistas, and with many peasants being given the choice of joining or dying, one can hardly say that the Contras are a just representation of society. Thus, the Contras miserably fail the Just War Theory tests.

The Contras are a disorganized lot of mercenaries terrorizing the Northern and Southern borders of Nicaragua in an unjust struggle in which they are far from victory. The Contras place mines in harbors and in city streets, killing civilians. They cut out civilians' tongues, rape women, and torture citizens unmercifully.

In December, with the first shipment of the \$100-million from Congress, the Contras were shipped some "which knows no boundaries." The Sandanistas are shipping weapons to leftist guerillas in El Salvador, for example. Third, they have set up an oppressive totalitarian regime. Fourth, they have broken their three promises

of the 1979 revolution: political non-alignment with a superpower, a mixed economy, and political pluralism with fair elections.

Several of these points lack credibility. First, it seems obvious that Reagan is manipulating the Sandinistas into stronger ties with the Soviets. With every embargo or cut-off of trade the Sandinistas have no other place to go. With proven USSR-Sandanista ties, Reagan can justify intervention.

Second, no convincing evidence has ever come out that the Sandinistas are exporting weapons to El Salvador. Reagan's third point does appear valid. The state in Nicaragua is consolidating power top-down in typical Marxist fashion. Reagan's fourth reason is valid also. Sandanistas do have close ties with the USSR and are attempting to manage a state-run economy. The political organizations which are allowed to exist are little more than social

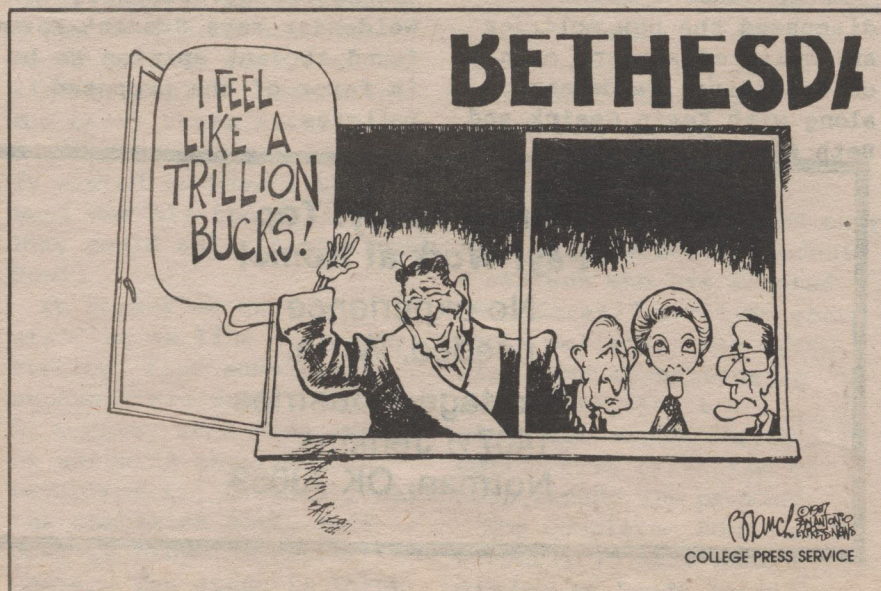
groups.

As a Christian who accepts the Just War Theory, I believe the Contras fail in every point. First, rather than government overthrow, Reagan has made it clear from the start that he will stop at nothing in his personal vendetta to overthrow the Sandinistas. Second, it appears as if vital military equipment--4,000 bed pans.

All this raises some serious questions which we as Christian college students must confront. How are we to pursue justice in Nicaragua? Can we support the Contras? Is it just for the U.S. to be involved in the affairs of another nation? On the other hand, just how bad are these Sandinistas? If the Sandanistas are so anti-Christian, maybe we should be involved. We must begin to grapple with these questions if we are to struggle for justice in Nicaragua.



Postcard of Sandinista soldier.



(continued from pg 2)

On January 10, during Dordt's junior varsity basketball game, both schools of coaching were well represented. With 15 seconds left in the game and Dordt trailing Northwestern by three points, Northwestern coach Richard Beach accused timekeeper and Dordt student Bruce Evink of delaying the clock. Despite Northwestern putting two more points on the board and clinching the game, Beach

continued to scold Evink until a fan intervened. Beach's only comment to the fan was, "Shut your face." Granted, coaches are human and, like anybody else, have a tendency to get angry, but the anger displayed by Beach was unjustified and out of place. Syne Altena, Dordt's coach, displayed the right attitude--aggressive, but not obsessed with victory. That's a better school of coaching.

January 22, 1987

Speaker Urges 'Walk for Life'

By Rachele Brower & Gwen Burggraaf

In connection with Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, the film "Voice for the Voiceless" by the Christian Action Council was shown at Dordt on January 19. Following the film, Stan Wynia, president of the Agape Christian Action Council in Sioux Center, addressed Dordt students. Wynia urged all students to prayerfully consider joining the public walk for life at St. Lukes Hospital in Sioux City this evening. This date marks the 14th anniversary of the Supreme Court's infamous Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

"There is a new twist in this year's pro-life march at St. Lukes" said Wynia. "Planned Parenthood of Sioux City has organized a fund-raiser called 'pledge a picketer.' Money will be pledged for each person picketing and will be loaned

to women who cannot afford abortions.

Planned Parenthood sees the pro-lifers in a "no win" situation. Either pro-lifers picket and Planned Parenthood makes a profit, or Planned Parenthood succeeds in dampening the spirit of this walk for life. Despite Planned Parenthood's attempt to halt the fight for life, area Siouxland pro-life groups have decided to proceed with the annual march with more enthusiasm than ever. Pro-lifers hope to see over 1,000 marchers participating, 300 more than last year. "By a large turnout of pro-life supporters, we will prove to be unwavering in our stand for the unborn," said Wynia.

The Dordt Defenders of Life will be a part of this effort to encourage St. Luke's to change its policy concerning abortion. Others can show support by joining the hundreds of marchers this evening.

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Students Win Drama Awards

by Melanie Ten Pas

Judges who observed play performances at 37 universities and 23 colleges, also viewed Dordt's production of "Our Town" in late October. They granted three acting awards--the maximum number awarded for an individual production--to senior Letitia Collins, junior Clarke Huisman, and freshman Lisa Van Dyk. Dordt was one of eight schools with three award-receiving students.

The University of Iowa, Webster University of St. Louis, Southwest Missouri State University, and the University of Nebraska gave the top four productions. These universities were invited to produce their plays at the American

College Theatre Festival in Iowa City, January 21-24.

Verne Meyer, director of "Our Town" said five Dordt students will be attending the festival. Workshops dealing with directing, stage architecture, lighting, sound, acting, and so forth will also be held during the four-day event.



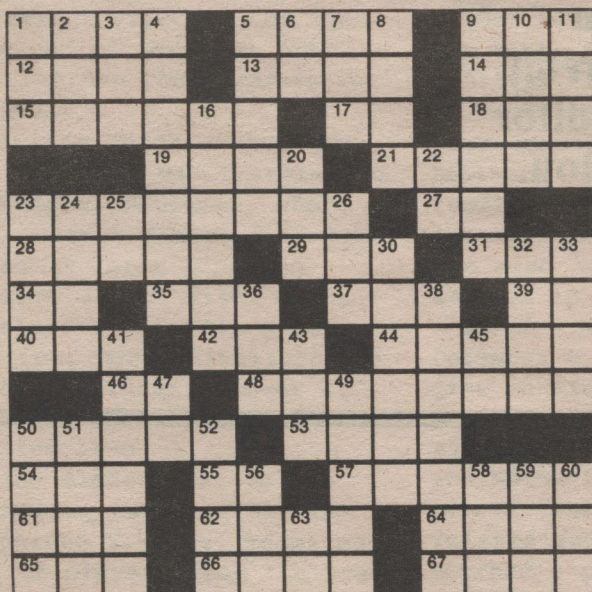
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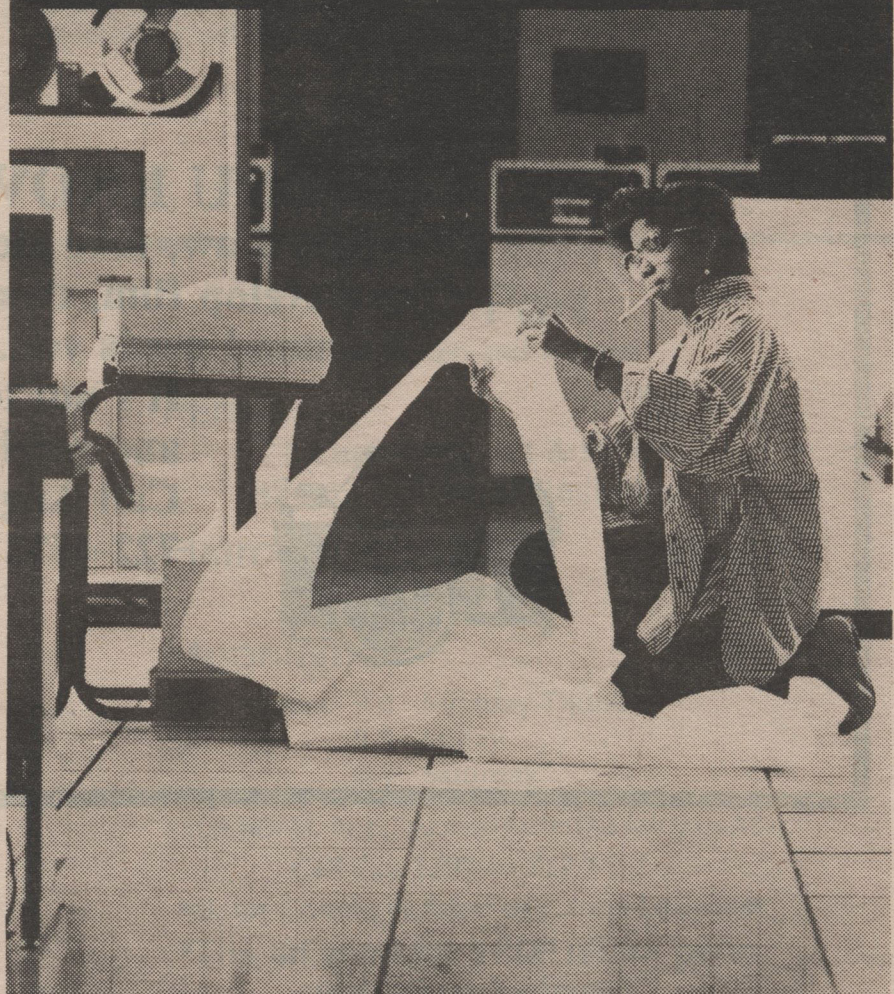
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January 22, 1987

Dordt Campaign for Student Aid Nears 7 Million

by Eve Spykman

When Dordt initiated its Heritage 21 campaign in 1985, it aimed to provide additional financial assistance to students with need. In the face of government loan reductions and increasing costs for students, non-Americans in particular, the faculty and board identified financial aid as Dordt's "most urgent need," according to Vice President for Development Lyle Gritters.

percent consists of deferred gift pledges, donations bequeathed in the donor's will. Deferred pledges are very valuable for Dordt's

Gritters, head of Heritage 21, says he is pleased with the program's progress toward its 8.5 million dollar goal. As of January 7, 1987, Heritage 21 had received pledges totalling over \$6,795,000. Forty percent of this amount is made up of cash pledges, while the remaining 60

future, says Gritters.

Heritage 21 raises most of its support through informational alumni dinners held throughout the U.S. and Canada. President Hulst represents Dordt at nearly every dinner, and the development office makes follow-up contacts.

Although the Heritage 21 campaign may not reach its pledge goal for one to one and a half years, the financial aid office is distributing funds already

received, in the form of Heritage 21 Loans and Dordt Grants. Recipients are given an average of \$600-900 per year as grant and/or \$800-1500 per year on low-interest loan.

Gritters stresses that the Lord has richly blessed the project, especially in light of the depressed economy in agricultural communities. He says, "It's been a long, hard road, but we have so much to be thankful for."

2nd Semester Stats: Add 40 Subtract 50

by Angela Struyk

Every second semester of a school year there is a large turnover of students--some leave for various reasons, and others return or transfer to Dordt. This year is no exception.

There are approximately 40 students at Dordt this semester who were not here last semester. Ten of these students have not attended Dordt previously, five are part-time students, and the remaining 25 have attended Dordt for a semester or longer in the past.

Those leaving the college for a variety of reasons

number close to 50.

Returning to teach in the business department is Professor John Visser. Visser has been working on his Ph.D. in Alabama for two and one half years. He is returning to teach one class and to continue work on his thesis. 1985 Dordt graduate Jim Bos has also joined the teaching staff in the computer science department.

In the agriculture department a new class has been added. Principles of sheep production will be taught by Ron Vos, manager of the Agricultural Stewardship Center.

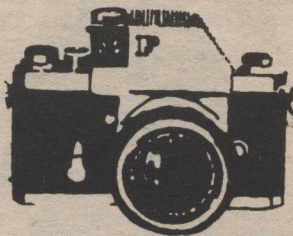
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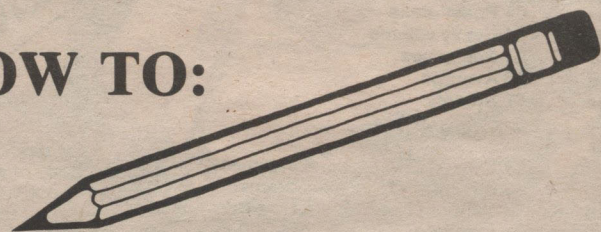
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Classroom Shines New Light on Sports for Busy Athlete

by Angela Struyk

Vonda Broek, a senior at Dordt, is a difficult person to reach these days. At 8:00 each morning she arrives at Western Chr. High School to practice teach Senior P.E. By 1:00 pm she is at Rock Valley Chr. School to practice teach until 4:00 p.m. After the grade school teachers are dismissed, Vonda hustles back to Dordt for basketball practice or a game.

Broek has enjoyed her practice teaching so far. She says that it has helped her to view sports differently. She explained that at Western the students are taught to enjoy fitness as well as sports which they can continue for the rest of their lives. "Teaching this has really made me look at sports in a different light. I see my time out there on the basketball court as my means of staying physically fit, as well as a time to socialize with others."

"In college, you can look at it this way because you do spend a lot of time together with your teammates. We have pre- and post-game meals together, we travel together, and have devotions together in the locker room before games. You get to know each other,

and friendships that last beyond the season can develop."

Broek has been involved in many different sports since junior high. "In grade school I was unaware of how big sports was in high school. And in high school I was clueless as to how big a business it is in college. I never realized how important recruiting was."

Vonda's freshman year was spent at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, MO. She has attended Dordt for the past three years, involving herself in softball, volleyball and basketball.

Participation in these sports has meant many awards for Broek. This year she was awarded Academic All-American and Honorable Mention All-American for volleyball.

The Academic All-American award means quite a bit to Broek--this is the third time she has received this, once for volleyball and twice for softball. This award is presented to players outstanding in their sport as well as in academics. Broek has received other awards, such as All-District and All-Conference, in volleyball and softball.



"I see my time out there on the basketball court as my means of staying physically fit, as well as a time to socialize with others." -Vonda Broek

Looking at the future, Broek sees herself teaching either grade school, high school, or both. She has also considered working toward a masters degree in either motor learning or physiology of exercise.

Blades Win Four of Six Games

by Howard deMeeker

After a disappointing 1-6 start this season and a rash of injuries that prevented the Blades from playing with a full squad, the team rebounded with three straight victories on the weekend of December 5-6 to improve their record to 4-6.

During Thanksgiving break, the hockey team traveled to Winnipeg, Manitoba, where the Blades competed in games against three Winnipeg teams. In the first game, against the Winnipeg city police, Dordt displayed the team's offensive power as the Blades defeated the police 11-3.

The Blades lost to the Winnipeg Warriors and the Winnipeg Vikings, teams made up of players from the area Christian Reformed churches, with scores of 2-4 and 1-5.

After returning to Dordt, the Blades enjoyed three days of rest before facing Carlton College, a team from

Minneapolis, on Thursday, December 4. Seven different players scored in the 7-4 victory over Carlton.

On Friday night Dordt faced Carlton College again, defeating them 10-3. The Blades played strongly in the nets; goalie James Koetsier turned away 41 shots in one of his finest performances of the season. Brothers Ken and Ed Groot together slapped seven goals into the net.

Ken also added two assists in the contest.

In the Saturday, December 6 game in Sioux Falls, Dordt buried the Sioux Falls All-Stars 14-1. Marc Wolters and Wayne Dykstra each scored three goals while Don Talstra and Ken Groot notched a pair each. Pete Zwiers, Dave Tilstra, Ron DeBoer, and Joel Kamp each put a puck past the Sioux Falls goaltender. Ed Groot contributed six assists in the game.

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Blades Tour, Win 5 out of 8

by Ron De Boer

Darkness had already enveloped Mt. Baker and the mountains surrounding it. Light rain began to form wet blemishes on the windshield as the Ford van carrying the Dordt hockey team rolled across the U.S./Canadian border and into Abbotsford, British Columbia. It was New Year's Day, 34 hours after the team had left campus to compete against teams in southern British Columbia on "Tour '87."

Bleary-eyed, the players filed out of the van and into a MacDonald's parking lot in Abbotsford and awaited their billet assignments. Elsewhere in the city, families prepared guest rooms for the hockey players whom they were to host for 11 days.

These Christian Reformed families opened their front, back, and refrigerator doors to the players, and went out of their way to create a cordial atmosphere for their visitors. In most cases the players were adopted as temporary additions to the family.

After the team unzipped their suitcases and got settled in, coach Ed Groot called a team meeting to discuss the business at hand--hockey.

Understaffed for various reasons, the Blades won the first four games of the tour before suffering their first loss. This loss ended a seven-game winning streak begun last semester. Dordt finished the tour with a tie, a win, and a loss for an overall tour record of five wins, two losses, and a tie.

Beginning on the second of January the Blades played on every night except Sunday. One evening, the team played two games back-to-back. They tied the first game and won the next.

The Blades played against men's teams from the Christian Reformed hockey leagues in and around

Abbotsford. These teams provided good competition for the Blades. One team, composed of top players from the Abbotsford church league proved to be the finest opposition Dordt faced; they defeated the Blades 4-2.

Perhaps the most exciting game of the tour was the one played against the Cloverdale Clippers, a team for which many Dordt alumni play. After a shaky start, Dordt battled back to upset the Abbotsford league's top-ranked team 7-4.

In another game former

Dordt Blade Rich Riemersma scored one goal in a game that ended in a 4-4 tie. After the game Riemersma, perhaps feeling a little guilty for scoring against his alma mater, picked up the tab at Hercules' Pizza Parlor, the local hang-out frequented by the Blades and their opponents after many of the games.

After 11 days, eight games, and a shopping/sightseeing trip to Vancouver, the players packed their equipment and suitcases, took some final

shots of the snow-capped mountains gracing the landscape, said good-bye to their host families, and filed back onto the van for the trip to Dordt.

The players were happy with their performance in B.C., as were the fans, who traveled from as far as 200 miles away to watch Dordt play. The tour was the second in a row that the Blades finished with a winning record; last year they toured Alberta and finished 6-3-1.



Top row: Dave Vander Stelt, manager, Jeff Alberts, Joel Kamp, Marc Walters, Don Talstra, Wayne Dykstra, Pete Zwiers, Doug Wiersma

Bottom row: Tony Bosch, Dave Tilstra, Ron DeBoer, James Koetsier, Ed Groot, Ken Groot, Phil Minderhound (Not pictured: Annette Vandermeulen)

Men's Basketball Team Loses to Northwestern

by Gailen Veurink

As the Dordt Defender basketball team prepared to battle the Northwestern Raiders last Saturday night, they knew they had a big task ahead of them. The challenge increased when coach Vander Berg had to be absent from the game because of an intestinal infection. Although the Defenders fought hard, they came up short, 93-87.

The game was close, with Northwestern holding a slight lead throughout. Northwestern shot a warm 54% from the field while the Defenders could hit only 42% of their shots. Northwestern's lead scorer, Bill Frances, had 29 points, and center Kevin Van Veldhuizen was good for 26 points.

Assistant coach Tom

Visker, who filled in for Vander Berg, was pleased with the team's effort. He commented, "I thought we played well. We played good hard defense and we also rebounded well. Our low shooting percentage was our main problem and that was a reflection of our poor shot selection."

Visker concluded, "The effort was excellent in view of the circumstance with Coach Vander Berg."

Dordt also fell in the junior varsity game by a score of 101-96. Although Northwestern built up a big lead, the Dordt team fiercely fought back to end within three points. Northwestern was able to hit key freethrows to ice the game. Joel Veenstra led for Dordt with 25 points and 12 rebounds.

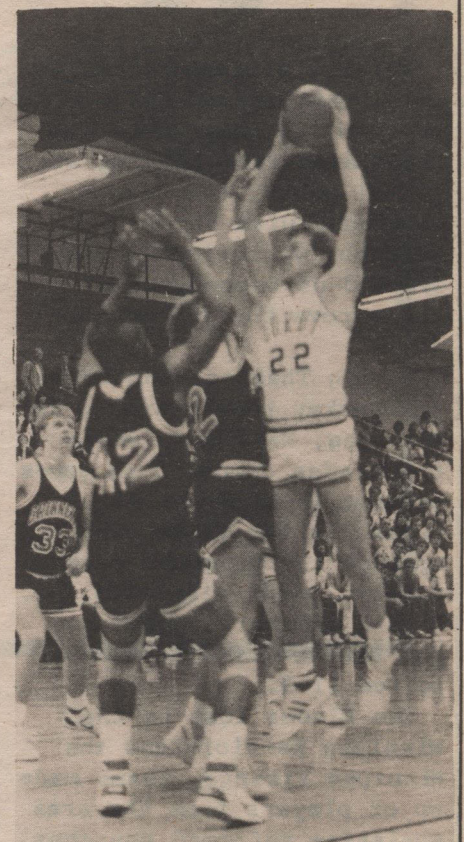


Photo by Rick Faber

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